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ABSTRACT

Compiled for use by students in the United States, this annotated bibliography of materials by or about Koreans contains more than 60 entries. The materials are listed according to the recommended grade level or difficulty and are divided into three sections. The first contains a listing of fiction and autobiography for both elementary and secondary school students. Resource materials covering the areas of history, geography, religion, tradition, and family life are included in the second section. The final section lists resource materials intended primarily for teachers. (FL)

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Korean Literature for American Students: An Annotated Bibliography of Writing By or About Koreans.

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Part One: Fiction and Autobiography for Students at the Elementary, Intermediate, or High School Levels.

NOTE: Korean names are given in the Korean manner (family name first, thus no comma required) unless the authors have westernized their names.

- Anderson, Paul. Red Fox and the Hungry Tiger. Illus. Robert Kraus. New York: Young Scott, 1962

A picture book, based on an old Korean fable of a terrified but clever fox who outwits a ferocious but dull-witted tiger. For a variant of this tale which Anderson encountered in Korea, see "The Tiger and the Rabbit," pp. 58-65 of Kim So-un's The Story Bag.

Level: Elementary; 45 pp.

- Anderson, Paul. Yong Kee of Korea. Illus. Yong Hwan Kim. New York: Young Scott, 1959.

An outstanding book for elementary grades. Anderson does not merely describe a Korean village; he demonstrates Korean customs and traditions through the motivations, words, and actions of his characters. A reader of any age should come away from this little book with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for Korean culture.

The story is enhanced by superb illustrations. Clear, strong, detailed, and realistic, they make graphic the traits of the land and people.

Yong Kee, approaching his ninth birthday, has one desire: to help his father cut mountain grass to sell in the city. Yong Kee learns that an adult's work is not so easy as it seems.

Level: Elementary; 90 pp.

CS204808

- Anon. Fragrance of Spring: The Story of Choon Hyang. Trans. Chai Hong Sim. Seoul: Po Chin Chai, 1970.

Considered the epitome of classic Korean literature, this tale of young lovers thwarted but eventually united was recited through many generations before first appearing in print in the 1700's; it is still popular today.

The heroine, Choon Hyang (whose name translates as Spring Fragrance), represents the traditional ideal of womanhood. Western readers will find in the romance of Choon Hyang and Mong Yong (Dream Dragon) motifs familiar in works ranging from Romeo and Juliet to Madame Butterfly. Some modern scholars read into the work a criticism of the treatment of common folk (such as Choon Hyang, her family, and the peasants of her village) by unscrupulous nobles and officials.

In Chai Hong Sim's translation, the novel has, appropriately, the flavor of an age long past. The prose is uncomplicated, feathery, and somewhat flowery, the dialogue vaguely reminiscent of an English comedy of manners. Humor is supplied in the person of fat and roguish Bang-ja (servant to Mong Yong), who loves both wine and Choon Hyang's maid.

The western reader may at first think the prose and tone affected; however, once one becomes involved with the charming character of Choon Hyang, one will want to follow her story to its conclusion.

Level: High School; adult; 232 pp.

- Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco. More Festivals in Asia. Tokyo and New York: Kodansha International, 1975.

Covers nine countries. The Korean festival included (pp. 9-16) is Tan-O Day, the fifth day of the fifth month, an occasion for athletic contests. The festival is seen through the eyes of Chul-su, a young boy who competes in the wrestling event to win the prize calf, and Kap-sun, a girl who wins the swinging contest and a sewing machine.

Level: Elementary; 66 pp.

- Buck, Pearl S. The Living Reed. New York: John Day, 1963.

An historical novel of events in Korea from 1881 to the end of World War II. The murder of the famous Queen Min, the fall of the Yi Dynasty, the trampling of Korea by both Chinese and Japanese, internal intrigues, the roles played by Russia and the United States--all these actions are seen through the eyes of one family: Kim Il Han, his wife Sunia, their children, and grandchildren.

Filled with factual detail, the book provides excellent background for an understanding of Korea today. Equally important, Miss Buck paints a compassionate picture of family life and loyalty.

Level: High school; adult; 478 pp.

- Buck, Pearl S. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Illus. Mamoru Funai. New York: John Day, 1966.

A heart-tugging story of four little boys who survive in a cave under a bridge in Pusan. The offspring of American G.I. fathers, all have been abandoned by their Korean mothers because of the stigma attached to interracial births. The main character is Matthew, named after his father. The three younger children have never known names; they take those in the title after hearing an American officer, who has tried to assist them, sadly rephrase the first lines of an ancient English prayer: "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, God bless the beds that you lie on." From one cold winter to another, eleven-year-old Matthew plays the role of father for the others. Matthew's ordeal ends when he is adopted by an American soldier and brought to the United States. Although happy in his new home, he is haunted by memories of his little friends. The story concludes on a joyful note when Matthew learns that other families are waiting with outstretched arms for Mark, Luke and John. The ending is a bit pat, but apparently based on an actual incident.

Level: Elementary; intermediate; 80 pp.

- Buck, Pearl S. The New Year. New York: John Day, 1968.

Christopher and Laura Winters personify American success. He is a charismatic politician, running confidently for the governorship of his state. She is an oceanographer, respectfully acknowledged by male colleagues as outstanding in the field. Married twelve years, they are still deeply in love.

Suddenly, a letter arrives which cracks the perfection of their world, shakes their marriage to its foundations, and threatens to darken Winters' political popularity: "Dear American Father, My mother talk I not write you never. . . ." A shaken Winters confesses to his wife that he fathered a child during the Korean War.

The book centers on Laura's trip to Korea to meet Kim Christopher and his Korean mother. Ultimately, however, Kim's fate must be decided by the father whose career may be destroyed if he acknowledges his son.

Level: High school; adult; 255 pp.

- Carpenter, Frances. Tales of a Korean Grandmother. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1947.

By adopting the framework technique of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and Boccaccio's Decameron, the author creates an unusual anthology for children. Young readers will probably not think of the book as a collection of separate tales, but rather as a novel about life in the Kim household, where the family gathers around Halmoni ("Grandmother") much as a modern family sits before its television set.

Properly speaking, each segment of this book is not a tale but a chapter, within which Halmoni responds to a comment or question from her grandchildren (eight-year-old Ok Cha and her brother, Yong Tu) by telling an appropriate fable or legend.

Just as Chaucer introduces the pilgrims in his Prologue, so Mrs. Carpenter introduces Halmoni and her family in the first chapter; Carpenter then provides a brief factual history of Korea and a description of the people and their village life, with emphasis on the importance of education, the rites of religion, and the responsibilities of children...all without any overt didacticism. There is a design in the order of some of the segments or chapters: the second, "Land of Morning Brightness," picks up the thread of Korean history as Halmoni tells the legend of Ki Ja, founder of Korea, and explains why the nation was once called Chosun, a variant of Ki Ja's name, "Morning Brightness." In chapter fourteen, "Letters from Heaven," Yong Tu is having difficulty learning to write Chinese characters, and complains that "If this book were only written in unmun [the Korean alphabet], I could read it straight through. Alphabet writing is so much easier than writing with word pictures." Halmoni agrees, and goes on to tell the story of the king who invented the Korean alphabet. In Chapter twenty five, "The Good Brother's Reward," a large family of relatives currently without income moves into the Kim household. Ok Cha and Yong Tu are not overjoyed about sharing with their cousins; a story from Halmoni teaches them the virtue of helping others.

Chapter twenty seven, "The Sparrows and the Flies," presents a refreshing situation along with a reversal of the now-familiar pattern: Halmoni is ill and tired; the concerned children take turns telling stories to her, vying with each other to turn grandmother's thoughts away from the mice running around in her aching head. "The Rock of the Falling Flower," the penultimate chapter, is important for its emphasis on the enmity between the Koreans and the Japanese. The children fear the Japanese, having heard of their early attempts to conquer Korea, and "about the thousands of pickled Korean noses and ears which the Japanese soldiers took home with them after one of their visits." Halmoni takes this opportunity to teach the youngsters about a historical episode in which all Koreans - to this day - take great pride: the 16th century defeat of the Japanese navy by Admiral Yi Sun Sin, inventor of the first iron-clad warship.

The final chapter, an "Epilogue -- Many, Many Year Later," reiterates the Koreans' dread of their Japanese neighbors. Ok Cha is now herself a grandmother, and has lived through the Japanese occupation and World War II; she tells the children gathered about her that no story is as strange as the changes she has seen come over her land.

The book is illustrated with rich reproductions of old Korean paintings.

Level: Intermediate; 287 pp.

- Chung Seuk Park, trans. Sunset in a Spider Web: Sijo Poetry of Ancient Korea. Adapted by Virginia Olsen Baron. Illus. Minja Park Kim. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974.

Sijo (three line poems averaging forty-four syllables) from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries, remarkably appealing to contemporary minds of all ages. The poems range from the sensitive and the romantic to the jocose and realistic. The delicate but detailed full-page illustrations convey a sense of Korean culture, successfully complementing the literature.

Because of problems in translation, these sijo are extended from the traditional three lines to six. Names of the ancient Korean authors are provided, an asset for the reader who is motivated to pursue this delightful verse form.

Level: All ages; 70 pp.

- Clark, Roger W. Ride the White Tiger. Illus. Kim. Boston: Little, Brown, 1959.

Based on actual events in the boyhood of illustrator Kim, this semi-fictional account tells of the effects of war on the civilian population, and the efforts -- eventually futile -- of one family to stay alive and together. A grimly savage ending, only partially softened by an epilogue revealing that the young hero, Lee, survived the war to find some measure of serenity within his heart.

Level: High school; 208 pp.

- Courlander, Harold. The Tiger's Whisker and Other Tales and Legends from Asia and the Pacific. Illus. Enrico Arno. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1959.

This collection includes two folk tales from Korea. "The Scholar of Kosei," pp. 11-15, is a gently humorous story featuring an ancient Korean version of the absent-minded professor. The title story, "The Tiger's Whisker," pp. 16-19, is from a version recited

by a contemporary Korean sailor, Lee Bok. In it, Yun Ok must obtain a tiger's whisker, key ingredient for a magic potion. She is successful in her quest -- not only in taming a tiger but in learning that the true magic lies within herself.

Level: Elementary; 152 pp.

- Ethnic Resource Center for the Pacific. A Korean Legend: Hungbu and Nolbu; and Korean Songs We Can Sing. Illus. Jinja Paik. Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1975.

Bilingual text. Korean script by Youn Jae Lee; English translation by Roberta Chang. Tale of a kind brother, Hungbu, and a cruel one, Nolbu, and the manner in which each treats a swallow and is rewarded. (See also Fregosi, The Pumpkin Sparrow.)

Four Korean songs, with melody and lyrics in both languages, conclude the book.

Level: Elementary, 20 pp.

- Fregosi, Claudia. The Pumpkin Sparrow. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1977.

Strikingly illustrated picture book. Adapted from a popular Korean folk tale about two brothers and their wives. Brother Wise and wife Cheerful aid a crippled sparrow and are rewarded when they harvest a pumpkin filled with diamonds; brother Fox and wife Envy are also rewarded according to their deeds.

Level: Lower elementary: 26 pp. (unpaginated).

- Gim Mal Bong. "Penance," Trans. In-Sob Zong. Selected Asian Stories. Colombo, Sri Lanka: Varuna Publishers, 1975, pp. 49-74.

Miss Gim Mal Bong relates, almost entirely through dialogue, the manner in which a clever wife (Zong-Hui) indirectly convinces her erring husband (the narrator) that he should give up his concubine (Mi-Za).

Level: High school; adult.

- Im Bang and Yi Ryuk. Korean Folk Tales: Imps, Ghosts, and Fairies. Trans. James S. Gale. Revised ed. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle, 1962.

These 53 stories, varying in length and difficulty, were written by two of Korea's best known early writers. Im Bang wrote during the late 1600's, Yi Ryuk during the 1400's. Each tale is preceded by a commentary on the story and its characters, some of whom are historical. First published in 1913.

Level: High school; adult; 233 pp.

- In Sob Zong. "The Young Man and the Tiger." Illus. Kwang Bae Kim. Folk Tales from Asia for Children Everywhere. Book One. New York: Weatherhill, 1975, pp. 26-31

An amusing accumulative tale. A congenial young man is indirectly rewarded for his kindliness to simple creatures; with their help, he is able to rescue his future love from a vicious tiger. This book is one of a series sponsored by the Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco.

Level: Elementary

- Jewett, Eleanore M. Which Was Witch? Tales of Ghosts and Magic from Korea. Illus. Taro Yashima. New York: Viking, 1963.

Fourteen unusual stories, particularly appropriate for reading aloud to an audience of any age. Their content and quality are aptly summarized by Jewett: "Very noticeable in their native stories are gentleness, kindliness, and a love of beauty. So many of their tales have a setting of gorgeous mountains and waterfalls and green forests! So many record adventures in an imagined spirit-world so beautiful it can only be suggested, not really described. Spirits and ghosts and goblins are for the most part either lovely and ethereal creatures, or amusing, or perhaps spine-prickling ones, but rarely horrible. One feels that a gentle, lovable people must have imagined these tales."

Level: Elementary, intermediate, high school; 160 pp.

- Johnson, Doris. Su An. Illus. Leonard Weisgard. Chicago and New York: Follett, 1968.

A starkly simply prose poem in which Su An touchingly recalls the sad day when she was left in a Korean orphanage by her mother, the long months during which she clung to a belief that her "Omanee" would return, and her silent hostility when Madame Kim, the head of the orphanage, declares that Su An must accept adoptive parents. Su An's obdurate resentment fades when the enveloping love of her new mother permits Su An to yield to the warmth and affection she so greatly needs. Powerful first person narration; convincing illustrations.

Level: Elementary; intermediate; high school; 30 pp.

- Kim, Richard E. Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood. New York: Praeger, 1970.

An unforgettable, heart-wrenching autobiography. Each chapter covers a traumatic episode in the life of the Kim family during the years 1932-1945 as they struggle to survive under Japanese rule. (Japan conquered and annexed Korea in 1910).

The pages are seared with tense, powerful vignettes: mother and father, cradling their infant son, risk struggling across a frozen river to escape political arrest; schoolchildren are punished if they speak their native tongue instead of Japanese.

For many readers, the most memorable scene will be that in which young Kim accompanies his father to the police station, there to be registered under a new, Japanese name, the government having ordered all Koreans to give up their own family names.

Level: High school; 195 pp.

- Kim, Richard E. The Innocent. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1968.

A suspense-filled tale of political intrigue during the 1950's and 1960's, narrated in the first person by Major Lee -- who, as Captain Lee, was also the protagonist of The Martyred. As in Kim's earlier book, the basic questions which motivate and tantalize Lee are those of a philosophical idealist, but the action swirls with dramatic intensity around military V.I.P.'s. Excitement tautens as Kim builds toward his focal incident: a military coup which took place in May of 1961. (The historical details of the coup may be found in chapter 9 of Gosfield & Hurwood, q.v.)

Level: High school; adult; 384 pp.

- Kim, Richard E. The Martyred. New York: George Braziller, 1964.

Set in a North Korean city which weakened South Korean forces are about to abandon to the Communists, this novel is filled with political intrigue and military strategy. However, it is not basically a story of soldiers in battle but of religious men struggling with the age-old enigma: If God is good and loves humanity, how can He permit the evil of war, the suffering of His people?

Fourteen Korean Christian ministers are arrested and tortured by the Communists. Twelve are executed; they are the martyrs of the title. Mystery surrounds the release of the two remaining ministers. Have they been brainwashed? Are they spies in disguise? A military intelligence officer, Captain Lee, is assigned to investigate; the story is related from his point of view. The answer to the mystery is unexpected, and one which neither the Christians nor the non-Christians wish to hear. Nevertheless, in the end, it reconciles those who survive the war.

Level: High school; adult; 316 pp.

- Kim So-un. The Story Bag: A Collection of Korean Folktales. Trans. Setsu Higashi. Illus. Kim Eui-hwan. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle, 1955.

This is a collection of thirty twice translated tales, as Kim So-un, a former chief editor of the Korean Children's Educational Institute explains: "These stories were first heard in my childhood in Korean, then written down by me in Japanese, and finally translated into English by Mrs. Higashi." Many are ideal for reading aloud, some being but two or three pages long. The majority are animal fables, pourquoi tales ("Why We Have Earthquakes"), ghost stories, and slightly didactic fairy tales.

"The Bad Tiger," pp. 51-55, is an analogue of In Sob Zong's "The Young Man and the Tiger" (q.v.); children should find it easy and enjoyable to compare the versions. Tigers figure prominently in a number of the other stories; the big cats were indigenous to ancient Korea and that memory has made them a bugbear in tales told to children down to the present day.

"The Great Flood", pp. 66-75, bears comparison to other flood stories such as those concerning Noah and Deucalion; interestingly, the protagonist in the Korean tale is an old woman, not a man.

"Why We Have Earthquakes," pp. 39-40, evokes comparison with the Greek tale of Atlas: earthquakes occur when the strong man holding up the earth shifts his weight.

One of the longer stories, "The Magic Gem," pp. 99-115, combines motifs familiar from a variety of European, North African, and Near Eastern sources. Capable students might be encouraged to draw comparisons with the Grimm brothers' "Fisherman and His Wife," with the "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" segment of The Arabian Nights, and with the last half of "The Bronze Ring." (See Andrew Lang, The Blue Fairy Book.)

Interesting as a consideration of variant versions might be, these selections are distinctively Korean, as Kim So-un emphasizes in his forward:

> I have chosen and retold here a number of Korean folk tales that have been handed down by word of mouth from one generation to the next. There are stories that have been told by grandparents to their grandchildren, huddled on the heated floors of Korean homes in the dead of winter, with the cold snow-laden winds raging outside. There are stories repeated in the yards of Korean homes to children seated on straw mats in the cool of a summer evening, smoke from mosquito smudges whirling about their faces. These are short tales recounted in great mirth by farmer folk, as they rest from their work in the

fields in the shade of a nearby tree. These are stories which the Korean children of countless generations have wept and laughed over in untiring repetition. In these stories tigers smoke tobacco, a tree fathers a child, fleas and lice drink rice-wine, and the spirits of old tales turn themselves into the wild berries of the fields or into a bubbling roadside spring. They reflect the serenity of the men and women nurtured by the ancient land of Korea.

Level: Elementary; 229 pp.

- Kim Yong Ik. Blue in the Seed. Illus. Arthur Marokvia. Boston: Little, Brown, 1964.

Because Chun Bok's great grandfather had been a blue-eyed foreigner, Chun Bok and his mother have blue eyes also. Despite the assurances of Omanee (Mother), Chun Bok is not convinced that blue eyes are lucky, especially when the other children taunt him.

Omanee decides to take her son away from their island village, where they are both known as "Fish Eyes," and start a new life on the mainland. It is her hope that Chun Bok will then be able to obtain an education. But Chun Bok shuns the school because the children there call him "Bird Eye" and make fun of his rural straw shoes. However, he is befriended by a little girl, Jung Lan, who shames the other children into accepting the newcomer and into pooling their small financial resources so that he may purchase some rubber shoes. Unfortunately, as Chun Bok approaches the shoe store, he passes a display of sun glasses and thinks, "Just what I need to hide my blue eyes." Without the new shoes, he dare not return to school and face the other youngsters. Events move swiftly: the children's angry search for Chun Bok; the theft of his prize ox; the indirect guidance of a gentle Buddhist monk; an exciting bullfight; a venomous snakebite which brings Chun Bok near death; and his eventual reconciliation with the other children and return to school. The key to his final good fortune, Chun Bok recognizes, is that his blue eyes did bring him luck.

Level: Upper elementary; intermediate; 117 pp.

- Kim Yong Ik. The Diving Gourd. Illus. Sidonie Coryn. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1962.

Songha and Bau, a young girl and boy who are central to this story, are sixth graders when the novel opens. As they grow up together, their childhood comaraderie develops ineluctably into love. Conflict arises because Songha's family is of the "Upper Valley People," largely farmers; Bau and his mother are of the "Lower Valley People" who make their living from the sea. A fierce argument develops between Songha's abrasive father, Ahrn, and Bau's

lonely, defensive mother, Bosun; bitterness leads to an actual physical confrontation between the two adults and Ahrn is mortified to be thrown and defeated by Bosun, whose diving work has made her strong and muscular. This parental scene is repeated symbolically in a bull fight between animals owned by each family, with the same result. Throughout the book, there is a continual contrast between the efforts of the young people to remain together and eventually to marry and Ahrn's insistence that he will destroy both Bau and his mother.

In a tense climactic scene, Bau lies hurt and helpless while his mother stands outnumbered by Ahrn and his relatives, come to kill them. The violence is halted by a small child whom Bosun and Bau had befriended -- a child suffering from the dread disease of leprosy.

The novel ends in a series of emotions: pain for the mother of the little leper, whose son is taken away to a leper colony; humiliation for the arrogant Ahrn; emotional exhaustion for Bosun; and happiness for Songha and Bau, now granted permission to marry.

Level: Intermediate; high school; 245 pp.

- Kim Yong Ik. The Happy Days. Illus. Arthur Marokvia. Boston: Little, Brown, 1960.

Recently orphaned, ten-year-old Sang Chun must leave his home on Cheju Island and travel to mainland Korea to live with his grandparents, uncle and aunt, and cousin Koo. Sang Chun finds warmth and happiness in his new household, becoming especially close to Koo. Soon he has many village friends of his own age, including Mija, a lame girl. The children are all very happy except for the fact that they do not have a village school and are therefore not able to obtain an education. The plot focuses on the efforts of the children, their families, and a volunteer Headmaster to build a school on land donated by Sang Chun's grandfather. The serenity of childhood and the harmony of village life are abruptly shattered when the youngsters, anxious to move timbers to the building site even in the midst of winter, attempt to slide a raft of wooden planks across the thin river ice. The resulting tragedy and the reaction of both young and old underscore the intense desire of all Koreans for an education. "The happy days" of the title will come when the school is a reality.

Helpful glossary, pp. 215-216.

Level: Upper elementary; intermediate; 216 pp.

- Kim Yong Ik. Love in Winter. Illus. Park Minja. New York: Doubleday, 1969. 206 pp.

A collection of thirteen short stories, most of which are appropriate for secondary students. Of particular interest to teachers:

"From Below the Bridge," pp. 11-28

The Korean War is ending, and a nameless eleven-year-old boy and his family prepare to leave their shack below the bridge in Pusan and return to their home in the country. To earn money for their journey, the boy directs American soldiers to willing Korean women, with traumatic results when he recognizes his mother among the group. Finally, parents and son make their way out of the city, but as they leave, the boy faces another painful moment: his dog, a symbol of all their wartime sacrifices, is too weak to walk with them and must be left to die by the wayside.

The squalor of this situation is portrayed realistically yet in a manner which should not be considered offensive for youthful readers.

"Love in Winter," pp. 47-69.

Mongche, a youth with a harelip, enjoys wintertime because he can cover his mouth with a muff and no one will mock his deformity. Thus arrayed, he meets and falls in love with Ann Zee Ann. What will he do when spring arrives? Mongche is so concerned with his own problem that he fails to notice Ann Zee Ann's hacking cough or her increasing fragility. Tempted by the promise of money for an operation to heal his split lip, Mongche agrees to take part in an ill-fated burglary. As he suffers the consequences, the reader learns that both the young lovers are doomed not to survive the winter.

"After Seventeen Years," pp. 101-117

Choon Soo is in the midst of preparing for her son's wedding day when she is startled by a visitor from the past. It is her husband, Meng Dol, who had disappeared seventeen years previously. Choon Soo is respectful but remote. She introduces the son, Yang Ho, to his father and dutifully but distantly informs the young man that it is a father's right to take part in the wedding ritual, despite long absence. From that moment, the colorful nuptial preparations and rites are counterbalanced with Choon Soo's memories of her own marriage. As the wedding celebration ends and the young couple begins life together, Choon Soo and Meng Dol are reunited as husband and wife.

"The Taste of Salt," pp. 118-134

This story is one of the best examples of Kim Yong Ik's sympathetic treatment of women. The young woman about whom the action revolves is never called by name, an indication that as a person she is considered a nonentity by her husband of three months and his entire family. The marriage was arranged because she is an excellent diver and her daily catch is worth more than that of any other diving woman in the village. Throughout the story, Kim Yong Ik contrasts the decency and inner strength of the woman with the crassness, stupidity, and weakness of both her husband and her father-in-law (who takes the money she earns for liquor). The reader may be surprised by the conclusion, but will cheer the diver's decision.

"The Sea Girl," pp. 135-142

This brief story describes with affectionate precision a day in the life of a young diving girl, Choon Soo (the same character as that in "After Seventeen Years"). An excellent, compassionate picture of the divers at work, and of the manner in which Choon Soo cares for her father and younger sister at the end of the day.

"Mother's Birthday," pp. 153-159

Since receiving word that her husband had been killed in battle, the mother of young Bok has lain ill in bed. The boy tries to keep her and himself from starvation by searching through trash cans for little items which might bring a few pennies. He works late into the night just before his mother's birthday, hoping to find something special in order to prepare a good meal, which she sorely needs. To his great joy, he discovers far more than he had hoped.

Bok rises early on the birthday morning to cook a small feast, setting it proudly before his wan mother. He beams with delight at her reaction: she takes strength from the very sight of the food, realizing with a mother's pride that the small son has become man enough to care for her. With shaking hands, she begins to eat. Poor Bok does not realize that the red snapper he found in the trash can and prepared so lovingly is poisonous.

"They Won't Crack It Open," pp. 84-100

On one level, the title refers to a coconut sent from Florida to the children in a Korean village. On another level, it refers to the image of an American soldier which a Korean will keep untarnished.

In this poignant cross-cultural story, Cho, a Korean student who has received a scholarship to an American university, detours on the way to visit Dick, a former G.I. In Cho's village during the Korean War, Dick had taken the children in the home for the blind under his wing, bringing them candy, blankets, trinkets, and entertaining them as best he could. Cho, then a teacher in the school, fondly recalls how he had described Dick's antics to the children, causing them to laugh gleefully.

Because Dick had always been so generous with the blind youngsters, Cho is shocked to discover that Dick and his mother live in a miserable Sarasota shanty. The ex-soldier is of course embarrassed; he feels he has lost face with all his Korean friends. However, at the end of his visit, Cho stops to buy a coconut, addresses it to the children's home, and signs it with their nickname for Dick. This act is Cho's assurance that the blind children will continue to remember Dick as he was in their midst.

"The Nun's Advice," pp. 161-170

A tale of one girl's reaction to the custom of forced marriage. Despite Songme's love for Jin Han, she is to be married to an older man who already has a concubine. An unusual conversation with a nun leads Songme to reject the marriage, but not for life in the church.

"Till the Candle Blew Out," pp. 171-180

Two little village boys, Life-Stone and Sunny-Tiger, are friendly rivals for the attention of Gentle-Flute. The boys, with their missing front teeth, their kite flying, their lunch-trading, have much in common with those of their age in many lands. The happy life of the three youngsters is shattered by a storm which destroys village houses and, even more important, the rice crop. Many of the farm families can no longer survive in the area and must leave, seeking work in the cities. Gentle-Flute is among those forced to depart. Sadly, Sunny-Tiger gives her his coat to keep her warm and Life-Stone sells his coat to provide for Gentle-Flute's needs. Standing together, the boys watch the little girl board a ship to leave their island. "Since then," acknowledges Sunny-Tiger, "we have not fought with each other."

- Kim Yong Ik. The Shoes From Yang San Valley. Illus. Park Minja. New York: Doubleday, 1970.

Delicate tale of two children whose peaceful life in the Yang San Valley is disrupted by war. Lost from each other and their families in the refugee-swollen port of Pusan, they struggle to survive. A pair of traditional hand-fashioned silk brocade shoes is the clue which eventually reunites ten-year-old Sang Do, the boy narrator, with Soo, the shoemaker's daughter.

Level: Elementary; intermediate: 61 pp.

- Kim Yong Ik. "Village Wine." The Atlantic Monthly, May 1976, pp. 70-73.

To war-shocked villagers, death comes in many forms. Fortunate is the survivor who still relishes a drink of the local rice wine.

Level: High school

- Koh Taiwon. The Bitter Fruit of Kom-Pawi. Illus. Kimi Masuda. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1959.

Autobiography of a young woman from the time her upper-class family moves to the comparative safety of Kom-Pawi village when she is a child of seven until she emigrates to the United States in her late twenties. The book is by turns sprightly, touching, heart-rending, and inspiring.

Recommended as an antidote for jaded young Americans.

Level: Intermediate; high school; 148 pp.

- Lee, Peter H., comp. and trans. Anthology of Korean Poetry: From the Earliest Era to the Present. New York: John Day, 1964.

Here is a scholarly work which is a joy to read. The lucid, sensitive Introduction provides westerners insight into the poetic soul of the Korean people. More specifically, Professor Lee's discussion of the interdependence of poetry, politics, and religion gives the reader an overview of some two thousand years of the country's traditions, strife, and endurance.

The poems, for the most part, are quite brief, with many being appropriate for classroom use. One can read through the entire anthology in an hour, then return to concentrate on the selections which have the greatest personal appeal. Almost every poem is preceded by a commentary (often fuller than the slight verse itself) which not only explicates allusions and symbolism but shows the relationship between the poet's purpose or philosophy and the national state of affairs in his or her era.

Students who have enjoyed Sunset in a Spider Web (trans. Chung Seuk Park, q.v.) should be given an opportunity to discover and compare versions of the same sijo appearing in both books. (For example, poems on pages 77, 78, 90, 90-91, 111, 123, 146-7, and 156 of Lee's work appear also in Sunset.)

Level: High school; 196 pp.

- Lee, Peter H., ed. Flowers of Fire: Twentieth Century Korean Stories. Honolulu: University Press of Hawaii, 1974.

An important collection of twenty-one contemporary short stories, with a valuable introduction, biographical comments, and explanatory notes. This anthology was compiled by Professor Lee for his university courses in Korean literature. Several of the stories, however, could be used with high school or some intermediate classes:

-Chon Kwangyong. "Kapitan Lee," pp. 319-346

Dr. Lee Inguk, an opportunist more concerned with self than country, collaborates first with the Japanese, then the Russians, and finally the Americans. A provocative, prize-winning story.

-Hwang Sunwon. "Cranes," pp. 108-114

Realistic war tale of boyhood friends fighting on opposing sides. Captured south of the thirty-eighth parallel, Tokchae is being taken to the nearest encampment by his former chum, Sonsam. As they pass through a field where, as children, they once set free a great crane, Songsam realizes he must give Tokchae a chance to flee for his life also.

Teachers may wish to compare this brief story to O'Flaherty's "The Sniper" or to passages in Crane's Red Badge of Courage.

-Hyon Chin-gon. "Fire," pp. 1-9

A brutal, naturalistic description of the suffering and subsequent vengeance of Suni, a physically immature fourteen-year-old girl married off by her family to serve a husband she detests and a mother-in-law who berates and beats her.

For mature readers only.

-Kang Sinjae. "The Young Zelkova," pp. 348-371

From the pen of one of Korea's most popular contemporary female authors. "The Young Zelkova" was made into a successful motion picture. The first person narrative expresses the emotions of Sukhui, a gifted but unworldly college student, as she finds herself falling in love with Hyongyu, her handsome new step-brother. The young lovers ponder how to assure their own happiness without bringing shame upon their family (a marriage would be considered incestuous). Standing in the shade of a young zelkova tree, they reach a compromise which permits Sukhui to look forward with honor and happiness.

-So Kiwon. "The Heir," pp. 396-415

Sogun, an orphaned city boy, is uncomfortable in the country home of relatives who cling to traditions having no meaning to him. He is appalled by the monthly rites to honor the family's ancestors, cannot feel the required respect for his autocratic grandfather, and has little in common with the male and female cousins of his own age. He particularly resents cousin Sokpae, partially because the boy is an epileptic, partially because Sogun and Sokpae are almost identical in appearance.

Sogun steals a pair of venerated jade beads from grandfather's storeroom. When the theft is discovered, Sokpae is blamed. The story rushes to its fatal climax amidst a slashing rainstorm. When the floodwaters recede, Sokpae is found dead and Sogun runs away to avoid admitting that he has indirectly killed his cousin.

Appropriate for the intermediate level.

- Li Mirok. The Yalu Flows: A Korean Childhood. Trans. H. A. Hammelmann. Illus. John De Pol. East Lansing: The Michigan State University Press, 1956.

Published originally in Germany (Der Yalu Fliesst, 1946) where Li lived for many years after his flight across the Yalu River, this autobiography features details of upper-class family life in a small town setting.

The narration is low key, the pace is leisurely, the tone objective, perhaps reflecting Li's medical training. The most interesting section for American students is probably Chapter XVIII, "The Old and the New Science," or, acupuncture versus anatomical dissection.

Level: High school; 149 pp.

- McKim, Audrey. Judy and the Moons of Korea. Illus. Don Morrison. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle, 1970.

Judy, an American girl, accompanies her parents to spend a year in Korea. Each chapter is a complete story related to one month, or moon, of Judy's stay. The author incorporates Korean festivals such as the Feast of Lanterns (May) and the Day of Swings (June).

Level: Elementary; 52 pp.

- Norris, Faith, and Peter Lumn. Kim of Korea. Illus. Kurt Wiese. New York: Julian Messner, 1955.

Orphaned two days before his tenth birthday, Kim Chung Wan is sent from his village to an orphanage in Seoul; here the raucous nature of city life and the taunts of street-wise city boys deepen his misery. Kim runs away and learns to live alone in a bombed out house. After almost a year of this existence, he is befriended by a wounded American soldier who soon desires to adopt the boy. Kim happily agrees.

As so often in books by non-Korean authors, the story is a bit stilted and patronizing (albeit unintentionally so) in the "Come with me to America" scenes. However, the tale becomes one of suspense and excitement, humor and pathos when Sergeant "Ren" (Len) disappears and Kim sets out to find him. A map of the circuitous way Kim is forced to travel from Seoul to the port of Inchon helps the reader follow the boy's adventures.

Level: Intermediate; 157 p.

- Parry, Marian. King of the Fish: Adapted From a Korean Tale. New York: Macmillan, 1977.

Level: Lower elementary

- Younger, Susie. Never Ending Flower. New York: John Day, 1969.

A thoroughly compassionate yet sometimes unwittingly patronizing picture of the Korean poor, among whom Britisher Susie Younger lives as a social worker for the Catholic Church. The many vignettes depicting the lives of youngsters Miss Younger has plucked from the streets or rescued from brothels are vivid and touching; these portraits are the strong points of the book.

The title is a translation of the name of the Korean national flower, Mu Gung Hwa. "No symbol could be more suited to the character of the Korean people than their national flower. Although Korea lies at the very opposite end of Asia from the Sharon Valley the Syrian hibiscus (which is the botanical name for the Rose of Sharon of the Bible) grows in profusion in Korea. It has become the national symbol and is called, in Korean, 'the never ending flower.' It blossoms without a break from spring into the late autumn. Its delicate blooms wilt quickly in the burning sun, but no sooner has one dropped than another springs up in its place, and every day each branch is as laden with fresh flowers as it was the day before.

"The Koreans are as tenacious as their flower. At the national level the greed of powerful neighbors, and, at the individual level, the crushing weight of poverty, may succeed for a brief moment in making them look, and indeed feel, a little limp; but the sap of their patience and determination is of such quality that after a few hours of darkness they are always to be found erect again, looking at the next morning's challenge squarely in the face. Their whole history both reflects and conditions this persistent power of recovery in the character of the people." (p.14).

Level: High school; 223 pp.

- Part Two: Resource Books for Students

The first six books, listed in order of reading difficulty, cover approximately the same material: history, geography, religion, traditions, and family life.

- Caldwell, John C. and Elsie F. Caldwell. Our Neighbors in Korea. New York: John Day, 1961

Filled with photographs and sketches. Simple sentence structure. Suitable for reading to children.

Level: Lower elementary; 48 pp.

- Tor, Regina. (Regina Shekerjian) Getting to Know Korea. New York: Coward-McCann, 1963.

Sketches on every page; lends itself to "read and show" to small children. Some well-turned descriptive passages.

Level: Lower elementary; 48 pp.

- Gidal, Sonia and Tim Gidal. My Village in Korea. New York: Pantheon, 1968.

First person narration by young Hong Sung-je; he leads readers through his house, his village, and into Seoul for a festival. Allows readers to feel that they are part of the Hong family. Numerous photographs enhance Sung-je's story. A good introductory book for young readers. Includes glossary and maps.

Level: Upper elementary; 74 pp.

- Johnson, Richard J. H. Getting to Know the Two Koreas. Illus. Claudine Nankivel. Revised ed. New York: Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, 1971.

Many clear, helpful illustrations. Easy prose. Opens with a simple introduction to the area. Johnston then takes young readers into the countryside to join members of the Kim family at work and play; later, he introduces the Kims' city cousins, the Choi family. Includes a guide to pronunciation of Korean words, practice in a few simple Korean phrases, and an historical outline.

Level: Elementary; 64 pp.

- Gurney, Gene and Clare Gurney. North and South Korea. New York: Franklin Watts, 1973.

Effective reference book for lower grades. Clear, descriptive prose; recent photographs plus sketches.

Level: Upper elementary; intermediate; 87 pp.

- Solberg, S.E. The Land and People of Korea. Rev. ed. Philadelphia and New York: J. B. Lippincott, 1973.

Comprehensive; authoritative; textbook format.

Level: Intermediate; 160 pp.

- Gosfield, Frank and Bernhardt Hurwood. Korea: Land of the 38th Parallel. New York: Parents' Magazine Press, 1969

An exemplary, highly readable text, explaining Korea's relationship to the rest of the world, her crucial physical position in Asia, and her significance to the United States today. Korea's struggle to maintain a national identify whilst in the shadow of China has particular relevance to current affairs.

Chapters 1-3 survey Korea's history up to the twentieth century.

Chapter 4 focuses on Syngman Rhee, first elected president, and the events leading up to World War II.

Chapters 5-6 explore the complicated causes of the Korean War and assess the 1953 Panmunjon armistice which divided Korea into two nations. (An interesting side note is that the suggestion to split Korea at the 38th parallel had actually been made by Russia prior to 1900).

Chapters 7-9 deal with the devastation facing the populace following the Korean War, with various rebellions and coups in the decade after peace had theoretically been established, and with the manner in which ordinary Koreans resolutely and resourcefully set about to rebuild their nation once again.

All of this historical material is related in 171 pages, clearly and concisely written. The second part of the book provides excerpts from primary documents. Of these, an early description of Korea by a shipwrecked sailor is filled with fascinating and exotic lore. Among the more contemporary documents are U.N. reports on the status of the Demilitarized Zone and official statements from all sides on the U.S.S. Pueblo incident.

Level: High school; 254 pp.

- Patterson, Wayne and Hyung-chan Kim. The Koreans in America. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1977.

Focuses on individuals, with quotations from their letters and oral reminiscenses. Good coverage of eminent Korean-Americans in many vocations such as the law, medicine, politics, acting, music, and athletics.

Level: Upper elementary; intermediate; 63 pp.

- Walton, Richard J. The United States and the Far East. New York: Seabury Press, 1974.

Written specifically for younger readers, this book covers the interaction between the United States and the nations of East Asia from the "open door" policy of the late 1800's to the present.

Level: Intermediate; high school; 182 pp.

- Werstein, Irving. The Trespassers: Korea, June 1871. Illus. Joseph Papin. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1969.

A factual account of an episode which is omitted from U.S. history books: an unprovoked American naval assault on Kanghwa Island, a redoubt in the Han River a few miles downstream from Seoul. The author states that his purpose is "to show my young readers that even a great nation. . . can be guilty of mistaken judgment; that even a democracy can behave like a bully." Once the reader gets past the rather wooden prose of the introductory passages, one becomes involved in the 19th century machinations of several nations, including France, China, Japan, Germany, and England. Westerners may be perplexed by the seemingly vacillating attitude of Korea toward strangers. When foreign merchant ships foundered off the coast of the country (then called The Hermit Kingdom), the unfortunate crewmen might be rescued and feted or, just as frequently, stoned to death.

Years after Commodore Perry had opened up trade routes to Japan (1853), Koreans continued to rebuff outsiders, including other Asians. The French, who attempted to send a flotilla of warships up the Han to Seoul in 1866, were defeated as ignominiously as had been the Japanese invaders in the 1500's.

Because of the author's stylistic defects and his tendency to lard the narrative with extraneous data exhibiting his research, this book will have a limited audience: history devotees, naval buffs, and seafaring fans. Too bad, for the account has great possibilities.

The meaning of the title is obvious, but is given added weight by the reminiscence of a United States Marine: "Of late, I have given thought to that time we stormed the forts on Kanghwa Island. I now believe we were wrong in attacking the Koreans. They had done us no harm. It was their right and duty to keep transpassers out, and no matter how we may wrap the package -- we were trespassers" (pp. 133-34).

Level: Intermediate; high school; 158 pp.

- Part Three: Resource Books for Teachers

- Butler, Lucius and Chaesoon T. Youngs. Films for Korean Students: A Guide to English-Language Films About Korea. Honolulu: Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawaii, 1978.

An annotated list of films, particularly helpful for interdisciplinary units. 167 pp.

- Copland, Margaret L. Fun and Festival From the Rim of East Asia. New York: Friendship Press, 1962.

Stories, games, and festivals of Korea interwoven with those of Okinawa, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Includes some musical arrangements, recipes, proverbs, and instructions for making the traditional hat worn by elderly Korean gentlemen. 48 pp.

- Dietz, Betty Warner and Thomas Choonbai Park. Folk Songs of China, Japan, Korea. New York: John Day, 1964.

Includes 33⅓ rpm record inside back cover. Oversize text provides piano accompaniment and lyrics in both English and the Asian languages. Extensive, clear notes give background information. The eight Korean songs (pp. 34-43) include two versions of Korea's most popular folk ballad, "Arirang." Highly recommended for elementary teachers. 47 pp.

- Hound, Nina. Far Eastern Cooking for Pleasure. London: Hamlyn, 1972.

Recipes from Korea (pp. 129-171) include various types of Kim Chee (the fiery pickled relish mandatory with every Korean meal) and Bulgogi (Bulkoki), a traditional beef dish.

- Hatada, Takashi. A History of Korea. Trans. and ed. Warren W. Smith, Jr. and Benjamin H. Hazard. Santa Barbara, California: Clio Press, 1969.

College level text. 182 pp.

- Ilyon. Samguk Yusa: Legends and History of the Three Kingdoms of Ancient Korea. Trans. Tae-Hung Ha and Grafton K. Mintz. Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 1972.

Fascinating legends important to anyone interested in comparative mythology as well as to the reader drawn specifically to Korean lore. Ilyon, a Buddhist monk of the thirteenth century, drew on both the oral and written narratives of his time to produce these accounts of the origin of royal families, historical events of the Silla period (c. 57 BC - 935 AD), the lives of famous monks, miracles, and stories known in the west as ghost and fairy tales.

The title is somewhat of a misnomer as the emphasis is not on all three of the ancient kingdoms, but on the Silla Dynasty, a glorious period in art and culture. The Samguk Yusa is roughly equivalent to portions of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Layamon's Brut, combining history and legendary material in a manner which makes the modern reader often uncertain what is fact and what is mythic. 456 pp.

- Kang, Younghill. The Grass Roof. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934.

A strange book, neither totally Korean nor totally Western in tone. Included here only because it is an early example of a novel by a Korean writing in English. The work is self-consciously artful, relying heavily on quotations from Korean and western writers, to the extent the reader may feel the author is enamoured of his own erudition.

The book is in the form of an autobiography of Chung Pa, from his childhood in a large upper-class family through his student days until he flees Korea at age eighteen by obtaining a passport to the United States. The pace is leisurely, the style artificial. There are some intriguing vignettes of Korean life, as in the description of a family wedding in Chapter IV, "The Marriage of the Prodigal Son." 367 pp.

- Kim, Chewon and Lena Kim Lee. Arts of Korea. Photographs by Masakatsu Yamamoto. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1974.

Magnificent volume. The work of a father-daughter team, this may be the best book available on Korean painting, sculpture, and applied arts. Chewon Kim was director of the National Museum in Seoul for a quarter of a century. Expensive ($65). 365 pp.

- Kim, Warren Y. Koreans in America. Seoul: Po Chin Chai Printing Co., 1971.

"An attempt to record how the early immigrants and students, despite incredible hardship, continued to fight for freedom in a strange land whither they had fled from the Japanese oppression." (Kim's introduction, p. iii). Covers the era beginning in 1903, when Koreans were permitted to migrate to Hawaii. 161 pp.

Available from: Korean Association of Southern California, 2559 Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006.

- Ko Won, comp. and trans. Contemporary Korean Poetry. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1970.

The poets' work is divided into that published before and after World War II. There are 184 poems by 141 authors. A lengthy introduction comments on or analyzes a few of the works. Further explication accompanying the text would have been welcome. Ko Won does provide brief biographical information on each author. 211 pp.

- Lee, Peter H. Korean Literature: Topics and Themes. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1965.

Although this slight volume is devoted almost entirely to Korean literature which has not yet been translated into English, Lee's comments help to give one a feeling for Korean belles lettres, from the earliest times to the present. 141 pp.

- Morris, Harriett. The Art of Korean Cooking. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle, 1959.

- Pihl, Marshall R. Listening to Korea: A Korean Anthology. New York: Praeger, 1973.

For the person who has time to read but one book on Korea, this is a good choice. It includes historical accounts, personal essays, articles from the daily press and journals, and eight popular contemporary short stories. (Most of the latter are those found also in Lee's Flowers of Fire, q.v.) A particularly thought-provoking essay is "Law to the Korean," pp. 234-245, which sheds light on fundamental differences between western and Korean concepts of legality and justice. 249 pp.

- Rutt, Richard, ed. and trans. The Bamboo Grove: An Introduction to Sijo. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971.

Scholarly introduction on the nature and format of the sijo. The lyrics are divided thematically: historical, political, drinking, moral, and love songs; songs of loyalty, solitude, music, morality, nature, and retirement and rustic life. 177 pp.

- Shimer, Dorothy Blair, ed. Voice of Modern Asia: An Anthology of Twentiety-Century Asian Literature. New York: New American Library, 1973.

This collection surveys the literature of India, Pakistan, China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. Included from Korea are nineteen poems (pp. 330-340), three essays written originally in English (pp. 199-208), and three short stories (pp. 73-114): O Yong-su's popular "Nami and the Taffyman," Yu Hyon-jong's poignant anti-war "D.M.Z.," and Son So-hui's "The Poppy." The latter, in which a young wife stands accused of the attempted murder of an infant, is a searing and pertinent addition to literature by (and about) women.

- Swing High: Korean Folk Recreation. Delaware,Ohio: Cooperative Recreation Service, Inc., 1954.

Small pamphlet containing descriptions of many Korean children's games, plus six short folk tales, explanation of the symbolism in the Korean flag, and two simple recipes. 48 pp.

- Traditional Performing Arts of Korea. Seoul: Korean National Commission for Unesco, 1975.

Beautiful, informative volume; outstanding color photography. Topics covered are work songs (for planting, weeding, harvesting, boating, fishing, diving, weaving, pounding of rice or millet, etc.); the unique farmers' bands with their yard-long spinning hat tassels; the masked dance drama (in which the colors of the masks symbolize the nature of the characters); puppet plays; and folk play. The latter refers to games and includes a giant version of tug of war; a see-saw in which girls catapult each other high into the air; swinging (also to heights); and kite flying. 102 pp.